

Subject

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[REDACTED] Assistant Chief, Liaison
Division, OGD
Office of the General Counsel

15 January 1953

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Memorandum from [REDACTED] submitting memorandum dated 1 October 1952 by [REDACTED] to Chief, Liaison Division, C&C, re "Post Office Matter"

1. Reference is made to our recent discussions concerning the position of this Agency in translating for the Post Office Department certain foreign language propaganda materials arriving in the United States from abroad. You have informally solicited our opinion as to whether the furnishing of said translation services is legally improper.

2. The exchange of information and the performance of related services is not unusual in Government administration. Interdepartmental cooperation is a principle which has been long recommended and is now recognized as routine.

3. Where substantial services are rendered by one Government agency in behalf of another, a legal requirement arises that the agency receiving the benefit pay for it either in advance or upon the performance thereof. Act of June 30, 1932 (47 Stat 417), as amended. The translation service which CIA renders to the Post Office Department on an informal basis, in my opinion falls short of an obligation on the part of the Post Office Department to reimburse CIA. In addition, the involvement of CIA in an unauthorized undertaking seems most remote.

4. It is my opinion therefore, that if CIA no longer desires to furnish the translation service to the Post Office Department, such withdrawal must be based on administrative considerations rather than legal considerations; for example, the inability of CIA to meet its administrative requirements.

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[REDACTED]
Assistant General Counsel

OGC/JBK:imm

Attachments - Subject Correspondence

Distribution -

Orig - Addressee

1 - OGC